

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR



JOHN BOHLINGER
LT. GOVERNOR

July 20, 2007

Mr. Mike Johanns, Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
14th Street and Independence Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Secretary Johanns:

This week, I have received requests for a Natural Disaster Determination (NDD) by the US Secretary of Agriculture from the Glacier County Board of Commissioners, the Teton County Board of Commissioners and the Toole County Board of Commissioners.

In conjunction with Pondera County; Toole County, Teton County and Glacier County all have received substantially below normal precipitation during the winter and spring months of 2007 and little to none in early summer. The continued drought conditions have negatively impacted this year's crops. Glacier County has not seen measurable precipitation in over 100 days. Teton County is in its eighth year of drought. Toole County is also seeing another long drought cycle.

Although the past several months have brought substantial drought relief for the majority of Montana counties, not all portions of Montana have enjoyed this relief. As with Pondera County, the spring wheat, barley, canola and camelina producers will harvest little or none of their crops in these counties. Grazing lands and livestock water have been severely impacted. Both the local and the agricultural economy are threatened by the continuing drought.

Other severe weather has also hit these counties. Between the middle of June and now the counties have endured severe hail storms, strong winds and excessive heat conditions. The lack of moisture has resulted in extremely dry fuel conditions and very low water supplies which are contributing to wild land fires and fire danger.

I am forwarding a copy of this letter to the State Farm Service Agency office so they may begin to compile the necessary damage assessment information.

Your prompt review and approval of this request will be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Schweitzer", written over a horizontal line.

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
Governor